

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

44. The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising:
a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;
a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and
the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

Claim 45 was previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new Claims 46 and 47.

E²
-- 46. (New) ~~The~~ fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising the blocker projecting inward with respect to the distal end.

Sub E²
47. (New) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising the blocker projecting outward with respect to the distal end. --

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 6, 2002. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 41-44 were pending in this application. Claims 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). To expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled Claim 41 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended Claim 42 and added new Claims 46 and 47. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over "*The Uni-Knot*" in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,835,069 issued to A.J. Flye, Sr. (hereinafter "*Flye, Sr.*"). Claim 41 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 42-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,936,971 issued to Welbourne D. McGahee (hereafter "*McGahee*") in view of "*The Uni-Knot*" and Flye, Sr. Claim 42 has been amended to call for various features

including "the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye..." which is neither shown nor taught by McGahee, the Uni-Knot and/or Flye, Sr.

Applicant requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claim 42 as amended and Claims 42-44, 46 and 47, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 42.

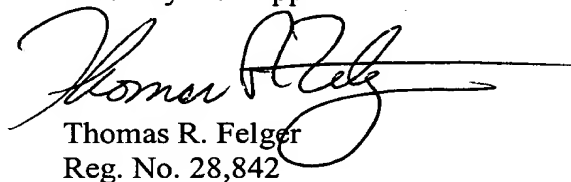
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims as amended.

Applicant believes no fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas R. Felger, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at 512.322.2599.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicant



Thomas R. Felger
Reg. No. 28,842

Date: July 31, 2002

Correspondence Address:
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
512.322.2599
512.322.8305 (Fax)



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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 41, amend Claim 42 and add new Claims 46 and 47 as set out below.

Please cancel Claim 41 without prejudice or disclaimer.

42. (Twice Amended) A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at a first end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the fishing apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

the sliding loop knot operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device;

a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof;

the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clinching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and

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the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device.

Please add the following new Claims 46 and 47.

-- 46. (New) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising the blocker projecting inward with respect to the distal end.

47. (New) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising the blocker projecting outward with respect to the distal end. --